AMENDMENTS

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

- 1. (Currently amended) A method for regenerating nerve tissue *in vivo* comprising:
 - (a) providing a device comprising
 - (i) a biodegradable conduit comprising at least two openings and a passage connecting said openings,
 - (ii) helper cells transformed with an expression cassette comprising aan inducible promoter, active in said cells, that directs the expression of a polynucleotide encoding a growth factor, wherein said cells are disposed within said passage,

and

- (b) implanting said device in a subject such that each of said openings are adjacent to nerve tissues, and
- (c) contacting said implanted device with an inducer of said inducible promoter,

whereby said nerve tissues are stimulated to regenerate into said passage by said growth factor produced by said cells.

- (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said cells are fibroblast cells, stem
 cells, fat cells, Schwann cells, astrocytes, endothelial cells andor ex vivo propagated nerve
 cells.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said biodegradable conduit is comprised of PLGA or PLLA.
- 4. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein the growth factor expression is inducible.

- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said growth factor is Nerve Growth Factor (NGF), Fibroblast Growth Factor (FGF), Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF), GDNF, VEGF, neurotrophin 3, or neurotrophin 4-5.
- 6. (Presently amended) The method of claim [[4]]1, wherein inducible growth factor expression is driven by administration of said inducer is Muristerone A, GS-E, or tetracycline.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein administration is intravenous, intrathecal, intracavitary and by catheter.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said cells further comprise a cell kill gene that renders said cells susceptible to killing following administration of a substance.
- 9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said cell kill gene isencodes an enzyme and said substance is a prodrug.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said cell kill gene comprises a promoter selected from the group consisting of CMV IE, SV40, HSV *tk*, RSV LTR, EF-1α and ubiquitin.
- 11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said cell kill gene is encodes thymidine kinase.
- 12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said cell kill gene is encodes a toxin and said substance is an activator of the transcription of said cell kill gene.
- 13. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of administering said substance to said subject in an amount sufficient to kill said cells.

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- 14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein administration is by is intravenous, intrathecal, intracavitary and by catheter.
- 15. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein said promoter is selected from the group consisting of CMV IE, SV40, HSV tk, RSV LTR, EF-1α or ubiquitin.
- 16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said expression construct further comprises a polyadenylation signal.
- 17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said expression construct further comprises a selectable marker.
- 18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said expression construct further comprises a screenable marker.
- 19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is a human.
- 20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the induction promoter is maintained induced for 24 hours.
- 21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the induction promoter is maintained induced for 48 hours.
- 22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the induction promoter is maintained induced for four days.
- 23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the induction promoter is maintained induced for seven days.
- 24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the induction promoter is maintained induced for ten days.

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25-46. (Canceled)

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